Dear Parents and Carers

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE APPROVAL REQUIRED

As highlighted through school communication this year, on Friday, 8 November 2013, new requirements come into place for employees and volunteers working with vulnerable people ie. children in regulated school activities. This new legislation affects everyone working and supporting children across Australia ie. schools, sports clubs, interest clubs, community clubs, childcare, performance shows etc. Regulated activities at school include, but are not limited to, assisting in a classroom or learning environment, coaching sports teams, canteen assistance, library assistance, attending school excursions, helping at school sports carnivals, school discos, walkathon, fete, working bees, working on school stalls and BBQ's etc. During these times you may come into more formal contact with a child or a child may rely on you for help, assistance or supervision.

Please note: You do not need to have these special requirements if you are attending parent meetings, interviews, school assemblies, school events, only visiting classrooms etc. Our school encourages and values the assistance and involvement of parents and other volunteers in the school. The safety and wellbeing of students in our care is also important. I hope that the new legislated requirements do not hinder the ability for you to volunteer to help in the school.

A reminder that a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card is available through a formal application process through the Office of Regulatory Services A.C.T. or A.C.T. Shopfront. The card is free for volunteers and is current for 3 years. The card may take a number of weeks to obtain. This card covers you for unlimited volunteer work in a variety of settings. This card suits volunteers who are regularly involved in the school and is in fact the only way for people who volunteer frequently to meet the requirements to volunteer in the school. A photocopy of your card must be kept in the front office and you should carry your card on you to produce if requested.

NUDE FOOD

As you would be well aware, we have introduced a ‘Nude Food’ emphasis in the school this term. I would have thought the reasoning behind it was obvious, however, some parents have expressed their dissatisfaction with the program. New things require a mind shift and a change of routine, and our Nude Food emphasis is not different. It might be inconvenient and create a transfer of waste from home to school, but at the end of the day if we don’t instil a knowledge of sustainability and environmental control in our children, who will? It is about their future, their reality, their world. For those unaware, these are the reasons for the program and an answer to some of the questions that have been raised.

Curriculum

The new Australian Curriculum contains a strong component of sustainability. Here is the content that must be covered during primary school.

Essential Learning Achievement 20

- The student acts for an environmentally sustainable future.

In the younger grades the emphasis is on:

- Essential Content (EC) 4 why it is important to conserve resources, protect the environment and participate in positive environmental action.
To be together the heart of...

- 20.EC.6 share responsibility for the quality of their immediate environments and for resource conservation (e.g. dispose of litter and reuse and recycle some materials)
- 20.EC.7 describe preferred future scenarios in relation to particular aspects of their local environment (e.g. suggest ways the school playground could be improved).

Older students
- 20.LC.6 how protecting the environment requires that people work together as citizens and consumers and participate in appropriate actions as environmental stewards or in other civic action to effect positive change.
- 20.LC.9 investigate how their actions contribute to sustainability of resources and local environments (e.g. investigate issues relating to packaging and plastic bags, develop reuse and recycling systems in their classroom and school)

We have decided a whole school focus for this curriculum would lead to valuable learning that was embedded in our culture rather than approaching it as a one off focus that would be forgotten.

ACT Government Initiative (AuSSI)
This program helps schools reduce their impact on the environment and spreads key sustainability messages throughout school communities. They are a program supported by ACT government policies and strategies. This program is delivered in all schools in the ACT.

Clean Environment
The huge amount of rubbish and waste in the school was a huge concern. The rubbish lining our fence line and that is blown across to Amaroo School is unacceptable and we need to find a long term solution. Many of the children are responsible and put their rubbish in the bin. We do at Good Shepherd, however, have never ending problems with wind and birds; this contributes to our rubbish problem. Our solution is to eliminate outside rubbish and we have already had comments regarding the reduced amount of rubbish in the playgrounds, along the fence and in neighbouring houses.

John Paul College
John Paul College have implemented a similar program as part of their school culture. As this is now our feeder high school, we want to prepare the children for this and work in partnership with John Paul College.

Containers
To combat the issue of lost containers, each class has been given a tub that is with them at each eating time. The children put their LABELED containers into the class tub so it can be safely returned to the classroom. This is working successfully, especially if the containers are labelled!

Packaging
At school we are encouraging children to talk to their parents about buying products that use less packaging. For example; buying a box of Tiny Teddies (one recyclable box and one plastic packet) as opposed to a multi pack of Tiny Teddies (eleven plastic packets). This will reduce our community’s overall waste and is more cost effective.

The Future
Nude Food is part of a larger scale initiative for the future. Next year we hope to go completely Nude Food and to introduce new rubbish, recycling and food scrap bins in all classrooms and play areas. The food scraps will be used to create compost and to feed the chickens we aim to house up near the vegetable garden.

I hope this has clarified any confusion. Please let me know if you have any more questions.

Brad Gaynor
Principal
brad.gaynor@cg.catholic.edu.au
In 2013 our theme for the year is “On the Road to the Heart of God”.
In every aspect of our lives at Good Shepherd we aim, ‘to be together the Heart of God’.

Thank you to the staff and students of 6 Kolek and 1 Metcalfe for the beautiful and reflective prayer celebration they led last Friday. They shared the gospel reading, ‘Jesus, the Way to the Father and we all now have a greater understanding of how living the way Jesus showed us can bring us closer to God. Please see the dates below for future Prayer Celebrations, We welcome all family and friends.

PRAYER CELEBRATIONS

**Week 5** - Faith and Justice Crew - Remembrance Day (11 November).

**Week 6** - 6 Morrell and 2 Jones - The Walk to Emmaus (22 November).

**Week 7** - 4 Dittmar and 3 Zarb - The Promise of the Holy Spirit (29 November).

**Week 9** - Kindergarten - The Nativity (13 December).

SCHOOL OF HOPE UPDATE

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR BRICK?

We thank you all so far for your support of our ‘Raise the Roof’ initiative for the School of Hope. We only have one more week before Simon from Global School Partners comes back to celebrate our appeal. If you have not yet participated, and you are able to, we remind you that just $5 will purchase a brick and help us to achieve our goal of building a secured classroom for the School of Hope. Since we began our fundraising this year some people have asked me if there are other ways they are able to support our partner school. If you are interested in individual child sponsorship you can contact the school or Global School Partners for further information.

REMEmBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day on 11 November marks the anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). This is a day we remember and pray for all those who have died fighting for and defending our Country.

At Good Shepherd School, we are holding a Remembrance Day Liturgy on Monday, 11 November at 9:15am. We warmly invite all families and friends of Good Shepherd to join us for the Liturgy.
General Information:

School Fees are due next Friday, 15 November. Payment may be paid by Cash/Cheque/BPay/Eftpos or Direct Debit. If you are having difficulty meeting your financial commitment please contact Anne or Brad. 2014 School Fees have not yet been finalised. Information will be sent home later this month via the newsletter.

Sympathy: It is with much regret to announce Mrs Donnelly’s sister-in-law lost her battle with cancer this week. Please keep Christine and her husband Steve in your prayer.

Reminder

Our book fair will be held tomorrow, Friday 8 November from 8.30am to 6.00pm. Get in some early Christmas shopping and bag a bargain!!! Please come in and browse. All proceeds will go to purchasing new books for the library, for your children to enjoy.

Parish School Community Day: The office has been inundated with phone calls on what uniform the children are to wear tomorrow. The children must wear their sports uniform. More information is on the next page.

Pick up of an afternoon: We are still having terrible congestion problems in the front car park of an afternoon. This is mainly due to parents who use the drive through pick up service arriving before 3:20, lining up and then blocking the cars that are trying to back out. There is a simple solution.

If you are using drive through pick up, please do not come before 3:20pm

Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
4 Term 4 | November 11 | November 12 | November 13 | November 14 | November 15 | November 16 | November 17
| 9.15 am Remembrance Day Prayer |  |  | Year 4 Camp Mogo |  |  | Parish ELC Mass |
| K - Yr 3 Swimming Lessons |  |  |  |  |  |  |
5 Term 4 | November 18 | November 19 | November 20 | November 21 | November 22 | November 23 | November 24
|  | K - Yr 3 Swimming Lessons |

Departing Families

We are aware that some families will be moving out of the area at the end of this year. To help us with staffing and class structure for 2014, we would really appreciate knowing which children (apart from Year 6!) will not be returning to Good Shepherd next year. If your child/ren will not be returning, please fill out the slip and return it to school as soon as possible.

Departing Families

My child/ren

will not be returning to Good Shepherd School in 2014.

The school my child/ren will be attending is

_____________________________ Date________________
Signed
Parish School Community Day

Last year Mother Teresa hosted a most successful combined three schools Parish community day. The ‘We are the Face of God’ day raised much needed funds for Catholic Mission. The students from Mother Teresa, Holy Spirit and Good Shepherd gathered for a liturgy, some fun games and a shared lunch.

The theme of the day will be...

**Reach Out! Give Life!**

This year the event will be held at Good Shepherd, Amaroo and we welcome John Paul College who will celebrate along with us. Students and staff from Holy Spirit, Mother Teresa and John Paul College will travel to Good Shepherd on Friday 8 November. There will be a liturgy at 10.15am; followed by fun activities led by students from John Paul College and a shared family picnic at 12pm. Parents and families are welcome to come along on the day. The children will wear their school sports uniform. We are asking that everyone donates $2 on the day to support mission work in our community and throughout the world.

We look forward to a great Parish Schools Community Day and thank you in advance for your support.

Luke Maher  
Religious Education Coordinator
6th November 1913. Melbourne Cup and Guy Fawkes.

Dear diary,

What a week! On Tuesday the Melbourne Cup was run and on Wednesday it was Guy Fawkes night.

Mr Davis' family has a lot to do with breeding horses for racing, so he has been very interested in the Melbourne Cup. He bought in some newspapers today that had information about the race. The winner, Posinatus, was not expected to win the race - according to Mr Davis and the newspaper. Although the weather was fine here, it was cold and wet in Melbourne. The race was extra special this year because the whole race was filmed by a motion picture camera for the first time ever! We saw photographs of the race in the paper and one of the cup itself.

It was very beautiful! It was one of the Cup's most ornate trophies (according to the paper). It was about three feet tall, silver; with birds, cherubs, smiling masks, tassels, and three ladies - representing Good Fortune, Wisdom and Health - all rising to a crystal bowl at the top. The cup had been made in Britain in 1866. It must have been very difficult to carry around. I would have been worried about dropping it if I were there.

We had Melbourne Cup games at school. Mr Davis made up some games for us to play. One of them had us divided into small groups. The little children in each group were the horse and rider. The jockey held onto the horse with some rope and they lined up along the 'track' Mr Davis had marked out. The other members of the team had to work out the answers to some questions for their horse and rider to move forward. The first right answer got the team one yard further along.

The questions were Maths, Geography, History and even English. Some of them were so easy and some were hard. A wrong answer was a yard back and then another team could answer the question. Sometimes it was better to be the second or third team to try for the answer. The horse teams moved forward and back along the track with each question. The team with Henry, Ben, Amelia and Frank in it finally won. Henry was so excited because he doesn't get to win very often.

Later we had piggy back races along the track. The bigger children carried the smaller ones. We had girls' races and boys' races. The winners got ribbons. It was a lovely day and we spent a lot of time laughing.

Last night we had Guy Fawkes night. We had saved up the branches from the tree pruning and tied them together to make a funny looking man shape. We tied this to a stake. It goes next to the bonfire that we made from all of the old rubbish and wood ends we needed to clean up. We make one every year and have friends over to share it. Ma and Pa have been doing a bonfire for Guy Fawkes since they were little and their families have also, going back for hundreds of years.

It all started when Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament in England on the 5th of November 1605. He was a part of a group who didn't like the king and thought they would change that by blowing up barrels of gunpowder. He was caught while guarding the explosives. People started to celebrate the king's escape by lighting bonfires. Now we do it because it is fun.

We light the bonfire before it gets dark so that we can check that everything is right. We make sure the area around it is clear of anything that might burn if a stray ember was to fly out of the fire. The only thing we really worry about is the wind. If it is too windy Pa will not light the bonfire. It is usually dry in early November, so rain is not usually a problem.

We sing, dance and tell stories around the fire and cook food at the edges. The camp ovens are set around the coals to keep them warm. Ma makes a damper mix and we wrap strips of the dough around sticks and hold them over the fire while they cook. We use it to scoop up our stew, or we drizzle Golden syrup down the middle when we take it off the stick. If you have sealed the end properly it fills with the syrup and it dribbles down your chin as you bite into it. If you do not seal the end properly the syrup dribbles out and covers your hands and clothes.

When it is dark we put the 'man' at the edge of the bonfire and wait for it to catch alight. It is so much fun when the first bit catches. We all cheer and clap. Then we count how long it takes to burn completely. This year we counted to 300!

It was hard to get up for school today.

Mary